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3.5(c)

EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
EO 13526 3.5(c)
NR 26 AUG 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Operations

FROM : [redacted] 3.5(c)

SUBJECT : [redacted] NR

[redacted] 3.3(b)(1)
Disappearance of Two Cuban Embassy Officials in Buenos Aires

[redacted] NR

WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

~~S E C R E T~~

[redacted] 3.5(c)

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NR

3.3(b)(1)

Background on the disappearance of two Cuban Embassy employees in Argentina:

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b. 3.3(b)(1)

Argentine Government security elements were responsible for picking up the two Cubans and later killing them, because investigation had revealed that they had been providing direct assistance to the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), leftist terrorist organization. 3.3(b)(1)

government

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security elements subsequently planted the story that the two Cubans had defected. 3.3(b)(1)

there is no evidence 3.3(b)(1)
available to indicate their involvement in ERP activities in Argentina.

c. If true, the operation could have grown out of 3.3(b)(1)
the arrest in early August of Patricio Antonio Biedma, representative in Argentina of the Chilean Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and the MIR representatives within the Revolutionary Coordinating Junta (JCR), who said he had received direct financial payments for the MIR from an official of the Cuban Embassy in Buenos Aires.

d. 3.3(b)(1)
the two Cuban diplomats were kidnapped by commandos of the Coordination of United Revolutionary Organizations (CORU) who hoped to trade off the two Cuban diplomats for the release of two Cuban exiles imprisoned in Mexico for the attempted kidnapping of the Cuban Consul in Merida, Mexico, on 23 July and the killing of a Cuban fishing official in the attempt. 3.3(b)(1)
Orlando Bosch, Cuban exile leader, said that the two Cubans would not be offered in exchange for the two Cuban exiles since they had confessed they were members of the DGI. 3.3(b)(1)

e. On 16 August AFP Paris reported that credentials of two missing Cuban diplomats in Argentina had arrived at the Associated Press office in Buenos Aires with a letter announcing their defection. AFP said there have been rumors in Buenos Aires that the two officials had been kidnapped by anti-Castro commandos.

7. Cuban Reaction to the kidnapping of two Cuban Embassy employees in Buenos Aires.

a. Havana Prensa Latina reported on 10 August that Cuban Ambassador Aragones in Argentina had notified the Cuban Government of the disappearance of two Embassy administrative employees who apparently had been kidnapped on 9 August after leaving the Embassy to catch a bus to the Ambassador's residence. High Cuban authorities had summoned the Argentine Ambassador in Cuba to voice their concern. Reuters reported the Ambassador had a 90-minute meeting with a top government official, who may have been Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

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[redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

c. [redacted] 3.3(b)(1) Aragones had told the Hungarian Ambassador that, if the Cubans could obtain evidence that the Argentine Government was responsible for picking up the two Cubans, he would demand that the government allow him to talk to them. He dismissed the possibility that they had voluntarily deserted, saying they were good Communists who only under extreme pressure would sign a letter requesting asylum and denouncing Cuba. (This conversation [redacted] was 3.3(b)(1) after the receipt at the AP office in Buenos Aires on 16 August of the credentials of the two missing Cubans with a letter announcing their defection.)

d. [redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

[redacted] Cuban commercial officers said they believed the Argentine 3.3(b)(1) Government was responsible for the disappearance of the two Cubans. [redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

[redacted] A Cuban Prensa Latina officer also said that he believed CIA was behind the disappearance of the two Cubans. The Swiss newspaper "Der Bund" on 12 August reported on the disappearance of the two Cubans in Argentina and said that Cuba claimed this was a CIA plot.

e. [redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

Aragones told the Cuban commercial counselor to do nothing further on the commercial agreement with Argentina for the purchase of 2,000 automobiles, saying the agreement had been suspended as a result of the kidnapping. [redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

[redacted] the Cuban embassy commercial office informed Chrysler, General Motors, Fiat and Ford companies in Buenos Aires that the Cuban Government had rescinded the contract for three ships to go to Buenos Aires to pick up 1,800 Argentine-manufactured automobiles. [redacted] Cuban-3.3(b)(1) Argentina relations are badly strained by the disappearance of the two Cubans and cancellation of the shipping contract was Cuba's "answer" to the disappearance of the two Cubans.

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

3.5(c)

SUBJECT: (Optional) Disappearance 3.3(b)(1)

FROM: ADDO

EXTENSION 9276

NO. 3.5(c)

DATE 27 August 1976 3.5(c)

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DDO	27 AUG 1976			1. Per our 3.3(b)(1) discussion I had LA and EUR focus on the Cuban problem in Argentina. The net result was the attached paper. 3.3(b)(1)
2.				
3.				
4. DDCI				
5.				
6.				
7. DDO				3. See no further action that we can take at this time.
8.				3.5(c)
9.				TGShackley
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

file

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FEE

LA/DDO

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